

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 4 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Chang. Claim 9 is canceled herein. The remaining rejections are respectfully traversed, as the requirements of anticipation have not been met. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). See also MPEP 2131. Chang fails to teach the “tokens” and “related expressions” as taught by the present invention and precisely defined in the specification.

Chang describes a method for processing queries by using what is referred to as “canonical non-terminal representations” of data. This includes word stemming to produce a lexicon of normalized indexed word forms (column 2 lines 56-67), key value grouping (column 3 line 45-column 4 line 5), and synonym aliasing (column 5 lines 39-43). Chang’s database aliasing resolves variations of spelling, capitalization, and abbreviations (column 9 lines 15-29) and expands synonyms into full designations (column 9 lines 52-54).

However, the present invention teaches tokens that can, in a very specific and novel manner, help identify relevant information in a queried document even if the information is in a form other than that of the original query terms. The tokens of the present invention have a predetermined meaning and follow a predetermined format including predetermined keywords and identifiers to help improve query processing. Tokens help identify query terms related to time (time zones, time units, month, date, day of week, am or pm), distance and length, speed, temperature, currency, and IP addresses for example (see page 7 lines 15-20, and page 13 line 10 to page 15 line 29 of the specification). The present invention also

teaches that the predetermined meaning of the tokens includes related expressions that permit a user to create a search query with a token when the user does not know how a desired expression was presented in a document (see page 7 line 28 to page 8 line 5). Chang does not teach tokens as defined in the present invention, and does not teach related expressions beyond the stemming and aliasing described above, and the handling of regular expressions as is known in the art (column 10 lines 65-67).

REMARKS

In the Office Action of November 15, 2004, the Examiner indicates that an IDS filed on April 6, 2004 has been received, entered into the record, and considered. However, no form PTO-1449 initialed by the Examiner was attached to that Office Action. Applicants thus request a copy, and provide copies of the previously-submitted IDS for review. Applicants can also supply another copy of the cited non-patent prior art to the Examiner if necessary.

All pending claims are believed to be allowable as amended. The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been carefully considered. The Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned representative if a telephone conference will expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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